

THERAPEUTICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Results of Radiotherapy in Leukæmia.—DR. FRIED has treated two cases of leukæmia by this means and has produced a considerable improvement in both. The patients were forty-six and fifty-nine years of age. Under the *x*-ray the white blood cells, which had been 62,000 in one case and 132,000 in the other, became normal or nearly so. The red cells and hæmoglobin were increased. The spleen diminished in size. The general condition improved, and in one case the weight was increased. These results were obtained in a short time and were such as no other treatment has been able to give. There were no unpleasant after-effects worthy of notice.—*Münchener medizinische Wochenschrift*, 1904, No. 40, p. 1772.

The Serum Therapy of Typhoid Fever.—PROF. CHANTEMESSE gives as the mortality in typhoid fever treated by his serum 4 per cent. The statistics are from 523 cases observed from April 1, 1901, to October 26, 1904. He has collected the statistics of 2618 cases treated at various hospitals in Paris, and finds the mortality to be 18 per cent. He replies to the statement made by some, that his good results are due rather to hydrotherapy than to the serum, by the assertion that where baths alone are used, the statistics show a mortality of 18 per cent. In 1902 he stated that serum therapy in connection with proper bath treatment should reduce the mortality from typhoid fever to 4 per cent. or 5 per cent., and, in the light of the results obtained since that time, he sees no reason to change his opinion. The serum employed is obtained from horses immunized by injections of a soluble typhoid toxin. Under the administration of the serum he considers that the liability to intestinal perforation is diminished from 2.6 per cent. to 1.6 per cent., and he has never observed perforation in a case injected before the seventh day of the disease. An interesting fact in connection with the serum treatment is that the agent should be given in smaller doses to the severe cases than to those of the ordinary type.—*La presse médicale*, 1904, No. 86, p. 681.

Cryogenin and Typhoid Fever.—DR. BOUTTEVILLE (*Thèse de Paris*, 1904) believes that the bath treatment is the method of choice, but if the baths are contraindicated or ineffective, we may have recourse to antipyretics. The author gives the results of a series of cases in which cryogenin was used. The drug was administered as follows: 15 grains on the first day, 9 grains on the second, 6 grains on the third, then from 3 to 6

grains daily, depending on the effect produced. Under this treatment the dryness of the tongue, the vomiting, and the nervous symptoms, nervousness, insomnia, stupor, and delirium disappeared. The cryogenin was given only in rebellious cases. In 14 out of 21 cases defervescence took place upon the twelfth day or earlier. In the others the fall of the temperature was more marked when a cold bath or a dose of quinine was preceded by the administration of cryogenin. The temperature would remain down for some hours. The author believes that one may use this drug in connection with bathing and hold the temperature in check better than when it is not given, that it will ameliorate the general condition and hasten defervescence, and that it is the drug of choice when baths are contraindicated. No bad effects were noticed due to its use, and it has a very certain effect in the fever of convalescence.—*Revue de thérapeutique*, 1904, No. 21, p. 735.

Fresh Air in Nervous Cases.—DR. VAN OORDT considers that treatment by means of rest in the open air, like that prescribed in tuberculosis, gives excellent results in the nervous complications of the infectious nervous disorders of digestion accompanied by emaciation; insomnia, cardiovascular neuroses, medullary irritability, and tabes are also indications. In hysteria, neurasthenia, neuralgia, migraine, and obsessions this treatment is without result.—*Zeitschrift für diätetische und physikalische Therapie*, 1904, No. 5, p. 281.

Pulverized Antitetanic Serum in the Prophylaxis of Tetanus.—M. LETULLE employs upon every suspicious wound a dressing prepared as follows: After thorough disinfection of the lesion it is plentifully sprinkled with dry pulverized antitetanic serum and covered with a protective dressing of sterile cotton or gauze. The dressing is allowed to remain twenty-four hours, and if suppuration takes place it should be renewed as above until all pus has disappeared. The procedure has no disadvantages, it is not followed by erythema or arthralgia, and, in view of its simplicity and the results attained, the author believes that it should be employed as a routine on all wounds that have any possibility of having been infected with tetanus.—*La presse médicale*, 1904, No. 57, p. 452.

Diphtheria Antitoxin in Ozaena.—DR. TARNOWSKI has succeeded in arresting a beginning case of this affection by a single injection of 1500 units of antitoxin. In a second case, which had been treated by sodium sozo-iodolate for a considerable period without effect, 1500 units in eight days produced a permanent result. In a third case of forty years' standing no definite success was attained, but the production of crusts was lessened to a great extent. The author considers that this method of treatment is worthy of further trial.—*Deutsche medicinische Wochenschrift*, 1904, No. 23, p. 850.

The Serum Therapy of Rheumatism.—DR. SCHAEFER has observed the effects of Menzer's serum in six cases. None of these was subjected to any other form of treatment. In most of the cases the injection was followed by some pain and urticaria. These symptoms were, however, not of sufficiently unpleasant character to necessitate a cessation of the treatment. In four of the patients the disease was in the chronic